

Application No: 10/556,122
Amendment A
Reply to Office Action Dated 07/26/2007

Attorney Docket No: 3926.215

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Fig. 1 has been amended to show the reference numbers 34 and 36. A replacement sheet of Fig. 1 as well as an annotated sheet showing changes are attached to this amendment.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-6 have been amended.

Drawings

The drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: slots 34 and end bores 36.

Fig. 1 has been amended to show the reference signs 34 and 36.

Specification

The disclosure has been objected to because of informalities.

Appropriate corrections have been made.

Claim Objections

Claims 4-6 have been objected to because of informalities.

Appropriate corrections have been made.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The claims have been amended to overcome the rejections.

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 3-4 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Warrallo (GB 1412758).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the ring land (8) of the friction ring (4) exhibits slots (34) in a circumferential direction which point radially outwards and feature an end bore (36) on their outer end (see paragraph [00021] of the specification and the amended Fig. 1). This feature is not disclosed by Warrallo.

Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over Warrallo and claims 3-4 are believed to be patentable as well because they are dependent on claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Warrallo in view of Ruiz (US 6,357,561).

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Warrallo in view of Burgoon et al. (US 2002/0157908).

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Warrallo in view of Burgoon et al. (US 2002/0157908).

Claims 2 and 5-6 are believed to be patentable because they are dependent on claim 1.

Information Disclosure Statement

The reference JP 2002-048167 was cited in a recent German Office action and was not submitted previously. Applicants request that this document be considered by the Examiner and

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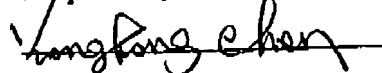
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be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08A be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Favorable consideration and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should further issues remain prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

Date: September 19, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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